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# Missouri's Legislature has passed a new ESA program



## What happens now?

On July 14, 2021, Governor Mike Parson signed HB349 creating Missouri's Empowerment Scholarship Account Program. The new legislation will go into effect on Aug. 28, 2021, but because it still needs to go through a rule making process and funding for the program is based on donations, it is unlikely that scholarships will be available to Missouri students before 2022.

### Who qualifies?

In order to qualify for an ESA scholarship a student must:

- Live in a county with a charter form of government or a city with a population of at least 30,000
- Have attended a public school for at least a semester in the past year before applying for a scholarship or be entering Kindergarten
- Either have an "individualized education plan" (IEP) or live in a household with an income that does not exceed 200% of the income level required to qualify for free and reduced-price lunches.

### A \$6,375 ESA scholarship can be used for:

- Tuition at a public charter or district school or at a private school
- Textbooks required by a school
- Educational therapies or services
- Tutoring services
- Curriculum for homeschooling
- Tuition for a private virtual school
- Fees for testing
- Services provided by a public school
- Computer hardware
- Fees for summer education programs and specialized after-school education
- Transportation costs for mileage to and from a qualified school